

interactive communication between the voice mail system and the user comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of sets of recorded messages each set having a distinct personality for interacting with the voice mail system; and
selecting a recorded message from the plurality of sets of recorded messages based on interactive inquiries between the user and the voice mail system.

26. (Once Amended) An apparatus for personalizing voice messages to be used by a voice mail system in interacting with a user based on information provided by the user in a communication between the voice mail system and the user comprising:

an application module;
a management module;
a media module interconnected to the application module and the management module;
a storage medium connected to the media module, the management module, and the application module;
means for creating a plurality of sets of recorded messages according to distinct personalities for each such set for interacting with the voice mail system; and
means for selecting a recorded message from within areas of the plurality of sets of recorded messages based on interactive inquiries between the user and the voice mail system.

REMARKS

With respect, it is unclear that the argument of the applicant previously submitted was reviewed, since similar traversal albeit with respect to newly cited art is repeated herein.

The apparent confusion or misunderstanding may lie with the way the applicant has claimed his sets of recorded messages as merely being "according to" distinct personalities. The amendment proposed today clarifies that there is one set of recorded messages for each personality. Although it was previously apparent to this writer, it is

hoped that this clarifying amendment will break the logjam of understanding that apparently exists here.

The applicant traverses the rejection based upon **Barber et al.** under section 102 for many reasons. The reason related to the clarifying amendment is that Barber has only one personality to choose from and only one set of responses as well. Respectfully, the **Barber** reference appears to be an inappropriate citation.

Particularly, the Examiner has it read on by the claims as having a "method of personalizing voice messages." However, **Barber** is not directed to voicemail messages at all. It is directed to allowing someone who sends someone else a message to send a particularized greeting card message when that someone else calls a greeting card center. (**Barber**, abstract). The greeting card has a selected message from a single set of selectable messages, possibly with each one of the set having a unique feature of interest to the subscriber. There are no multiple sets of messages to select from wherein each set has messages of a particular personality. Further, as for the application of **Barber** to claim 26, the central controller is not like "an application module" since, for example, **Barber** has only one central controller and the applicants' system has a plurality of such modules. The CPU of **Barber** is not a "management module" and the public telephone network of **Barber** is not a "media module". (How this mistake could have been made is unclear since the applicant's Fig. 1 plainly shows the media module as separate from the public telephone network).

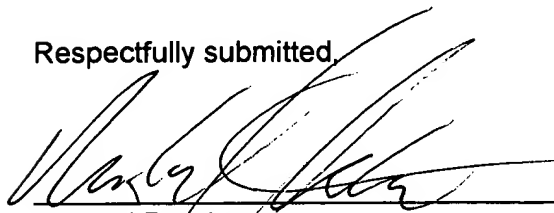
Accordingly the rejection based on **Barber** is respectfully traversed, and withdrawal of said rejection is requested.

The rejection under section 103 of all the other claims depends upon the reference **Hashimoto**. It is clear that for **Hashimoto** there is but one set of messages to choose from. Each is perhaps distinct, but there are not a group of sets of messages, each such set having its own personality. The modification to the claims should clarify beyond any possible confusion that the applicant claims a system with more than one set of messages each such set having a personality. Without such a limitation, the user cannot be fairly

said to choose among personalities each of which has multiple responses. Further, the suggestion by the Examiner that from Hashimoto it would be obvious to add personality is traversed. Adding the recipients' name to the outgoing message is not understood to be related to the personality characteristics of the outgoing message. The applicant sees no suggestion in Hashimoto to add personality to any messages, let alone to multiple sets of messages which neither Hashimoto nor any of the other references have. Additional material cited by the examiner does not appear to show multiple sets of messages with personalities of their own, so all the rejections based on Hashimoto are traversed. The applicant disagrees with several of the characterizations of the prior art and reserves the right to argue against such characterizations. However, since the base claims fairly distinguish from the main cited reference and none of the other cited references provide the missing limitations, applicant believes it will be unduly burdensome to the Examiner to review each and every such argument while this underlying and completely sufficient argument remains unmet.

Accordingly, with the claims all modified per the modification of the base claims, and with the limitations of such base claims being unmet by the art, the applicant respectfully requests allowance of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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Michael B. Atlass
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 30,606
Tele No. 215-986-4111

Unisys Corporation
M.S. E8-114
One Unisys Way
Blue Bell, PA 19424

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 26 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method of personalizing voice messages to be used by a voice mail system in interacting with a user based on information provided by the user in an interactive communication between the voice mail system and the user comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of sets of recorded messages each set having a [according to] distinct [personalities] personality for interacting with the voice mail system; and

selecting a recorded message from the plurality of sets of recorded messages based on interactive inquiries between the user and the voice mail system.

26. (Once Amended) An apparatus for personalizing voice messages to be used by a voice mail system in interacting with a user based on information provided by the user in a communication between the voice mail system and the user comprising:

an application module;

a management module;

a media module interconnected to the application module and the management module;

a storage medium connected to the media module, the management module, and the application module;

means for creating a plurality of sets of recorded messages according to distinct personalities for each such set for interacting with the voice mail system; and

means for selecting a recorded message from within areas of the plurality of sets of recorded messages based on interactive inquiries between the user and the voice mail system.